

REMARKS

1. Paragraph Numbers 1 and 2 of the Detailed Action are understood and appreciated.

2. Regarding the phrase “varying the size of the cross member” as used in the Abstract, Applicant has amended the Abstract by changing “size” to “effective length.” Later, in Paragraph Numbers 5 and 6 of the Detailed Action it is pointed out that the length does not vary, but that the position does. Applicant believes that while the Office Action is technically correct, the varying positions of the cross member are not the more significant characteristic to be understood. More particularly, the slidability of and the eccentricity (i.e., double axes 17 and 40 of pin of the intermediate portion 38 of pin 30) of pin 30 allow the effective length of cross member 18 to increase when it moves from a horizontal position to a non-horizontal position.

Paragraphs [0025] and [0026] and claim 1 have all been amended to state that it is the effective length that varies. This is not a simple invention to understand, however, the Specification is complete and does describe the invention in such terms as would allow one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use it.

Directing attention to Fig. 2, it can be seen that the cross member 18, which is fixed in the middle at axis 21 so the tracks on the two sides of the vehicle 1 can pivot thereabout—and, since cross member 18 is one piece, as one goes down, the other goes up and vice versa. In this type of equipment, the relationship between elements/components are relatively fixed—for instance, the distal relationship between the carriage 4 and the pivot point 21 do not change. Still viewing Fig. 2, it is apparent that when cross member 18 is in a horizontal position (solid line in this figure), the radial distance between the pivot point 21 and the central axis of pin 30 is fixed at L1. When cross member 18 pivots, for example, upwardly to the upper dotted line position, the radial distance must

increase. And that is what the eccentricity of pin 30 allows (see Figs. 2 and 3). In Fig. 3, the slidability and eccentricity of pin 30 are shown.

3. The drawings were objected to for failing to show, in Fig. 1, the view line "II—II" and for having a poor depiction of ring 47. Insofar as this objection might be carried forward, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicant made changes to the drawings and submitted these changes with the last amendment; however, it is noted that that amendment was faxed to the Patent Office, and perhaps the quality of the fax did not allow a good appreciation for the proposed changes. Applicant will send the instant amendment by US mail in the expectation that the marked up original will be more readily understood. In any event, Fig. 1 does show view line II—II.

Inner ring 47 is exactly what is described in the Specification and shown in the drawings. A very good depiction of this inner ring can be seen in Fig. 5...inner ring 47 fits around portion 38 of pin 30. It has a concave curved surface 48 that fits into seat 46 of outer ring 45. This inner and outer ring structure is not per se novel, and one of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate what the structure and its function is. The reference lines are amended in the proposed drawing changes and should clear up this misunderstanding.

4. Claims 1-14 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Insofar as this rejection might be applied to the claims now in the application, it is respectfully traversed.

Firstly, the Office Action mentions the issues, already discussed above, relating to the use of the phrase "varying the length of said cross member". Applicant believes that the change to "effective" length should overcome any confusion on this matter, and submits that this is something that is readily appreciated and understood by someone of ordinary skill in the art.

Secondly, this rejection states, as also discussed above, that the sliding characteristic of the inner ring 47 is not discernable from the drawings. In addition to earlier discussions on this matter, Applicant directs attention to Fig. 3, and suggests that the various positions of pin 30 are shown in the three different positional depictions.

Referring to Paragraphs [0024] and [0031], and Figures 4 and 5, it is clear that the outer ring 45 matches the contour of inner ring 47 and mates therewith to form the articulated elements of spherical joint 44. The surfaces of the two rings operate in general contact with each other to provide relative movement in two dimensions. Applicant believes that the configuration of the inner ring is as clear and precise as possible, and certainly as clear as is required to understand, make and use the invention. The only other possible way that Applicant can think of to make the configuration clearer would be to have a separate figure for the outer ring by itself, but that would be merely duplicative of the teachings of the existing figures.

5. Claims 1-14 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. Insofar as this rejection might be applied to the claims now in the application, it is respectfully traversed.

The first issue raised in this rejection relates to the matter of the phrase "varying the length...". Again, Applicant believes that this matter has been fully discussed above, and that it is now a moot issue.

The second issue raised in this rejection relates to the use of the phrase "the relative said second hinge axis/carriage" and the belief by the Office that the use of "said" is unclear and unnecessary. Applicant has dropped this usage in amended claims 6 and 7 (claim 3 has been cancelled), so this matter, too, should be moot.

6. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Blomstrom et al. Insofar as this rejection

might be applied to the claims now in the application, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by including the limitations of original claim 3, so this rejection should also be moot.

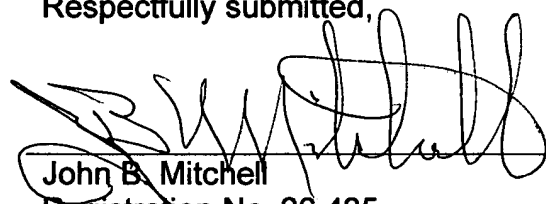
7. Claims 3-14 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. The amendment to claim 1 described in Paragraph 6, above, should render this objection moot.

8. In summary, claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended, claims 3 has been cancelled, and claims 1, 2, and 4-14 remain in the application. Applicant believes that the claims as herein presented are allowable, and respectfully requests that all objections be withdrawn and that the application be sent to Allowance. No new matter has been added.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call Applicant's attorney, collect, at New Holland, Pennsylvania, if in her judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if she considers the application ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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